

Introduction

Reportable cases of tuberculosis (TB) are submitted to the TB Control Branch (TBCB), California Department of Health Services, by the 61 local health jurisdictions (58 counties, Berkeley, Long Beach, and Pasadena). In 1993, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with state and local health departments, began using the expanded Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT) to collect information on each case of TB. In addition to the demographic and clinical features of TB that were previously collected, the RVCT includes information on drug resistance, risk factors for tuberculosis, and treatment outcomes. In 1998, CDC implemented the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS) for data entry and transmission of case reports. Today, TIMS is in use in the 19 largest jurisdictions in California, allowing 93% of TB cases to be reported electronically to TBCB.

Each year, TBCB has released a set of data tables on TB morbidity in California. Several of the tables present data that have also been selected as key indicators of the performance of TB programs in local health jurisdictions and may be used for evaluation purposes at the local level in the Tuberculosis Indicators Project (TIP). Indicators of sentinel events in TB control included in this report are the number of pediatric cases in a jurisdiction (Tables 15-16), and the number of cases that die with tuberculosis (Tables 24-25, 47-51). Indicators of timely completion of appropriate tuberculosis therapy include the proportion of cases started on a four-drug regimen (Table 26), the proportion of cases completing therapy in 12 months or less and the proportion of cases lost to follow-up during treatment (Tables 47-51).

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